

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8954

INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB

UNCLAS BELGRADE 8027

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD

SUBJ: GSP SECOND PETITION REVIEW

REF: (A) STATE 287997, (B) STATE 284894

SUMMARY: GOY NOTE, SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION AT U.S. HEARINGS DEC 14, REQUESTS RETENTION UNDER GSP OF WOODEN CHAIRS, WHICH ARE SUBJECT OF PETITION REQUESTING REMOVAL FROM LIST OF ELIGIBLE PRODUCTS. GOY OFFICIAL HAS EXPRESSED INTENTION ALSO TO SUBMIT INFORMATION REQUESTED BY TRADE POLICY STAFF COMMITTEE CONCERNING YUGOSLAV INTEREST IN "OTHER DRUGS", BRADS, AND NAILS. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE VDNVEY CONTENTS OF THIS MESSAGE TO TRADE POLICY STAFF COMMITTEE. END SUMMARY.

1. YUGOSLAV DIPLOMATIC NOTE DATED DEC 10 REQUESTS RETENTION UNDER GSP OF WOODEN CHAIRS, WHICH ARE SUBJECT OF PETITION REQUESTING REMOVAL FROM LIST OF ELIGIBLE PRODUCTS. NOTE CONTAINS REFERENCE TO EMBASSY LETTER OF NOV 24 WHICH TRANSMITTED LIST OF PRODUCTS COMING UNDER REVIEW IN DEC 14 HEARINGS AND PER REFTEL B INFORMED GOY THAT IT COULD MAKE ITS VIEW KNOWN ON ANY OF THE PRODUCTS THROUGH DIPLOMATIC NOTE.

2. TEXT OF NOTE FOLLOWS: BEGIN QUOTE:
THE FEDERAL SECRETARIAT FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE SOCIALIST FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND, WITH REFERENCE TO UNCLASSIFIED

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THE EMBASSY'S LETTER OF 24 NOV 1976 ADDRESSED TO THE FEDERAL

SECRETARIAT FOR FOREIGN TRADE, CONCERNING PUBLIC HEARINGS WHICH ARE TO BE HELD ON 14 DECEMBER 1976 ON THE PROPOSED MODIFICATION OF THE LIST OF PRODUCTS COVERED BY THE UNITED STATES GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES, HAS THE HONOR TO INFORM THE EMBASSY AS FOLLOWS.

TSUS ITEM 727, 30-CHAIRS, APPEARS ON THE LIST OF PRODUCTS WHICH WILL BE CONSIDERED AT THE PUBLIC HEARINGS WITH RESPECT TO THEIR ELIGIBILITY FOR THE UNITED STATES GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES. THIS ITEM CVERS SEVERAL KINDS OF CHAIRS, SO THAT A BREAKDOWN OF YUGOSLAV EXPORTS OF CHAIRS TO THE UNITED STATES SHOWS THAT TSUS SUB-ITEMS 727.30.25 (DIRECTOR'S CHAIRS) AND 727.30.30 (OTHER FOLDING CHAIRS) COVER ABOUT 10 PERCENT OF THESE EXPORTS, AND SUB-ITEM 727.30.40 COVERS THE EXPORTS OF OTHER CHAIRS. AMONG THEM A DISTINCTION SHOULD ALSO BE MADE BETWEEN COMMON CHAIRS AND ROCKING CHAIRS, BOTH OF WHICH APPEAR IN YUGOSLAV EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES. ALL THESE EXPORTS, AMOUNTING YEARLY FROM 20 TO 25 MILLION U.S. DOLLARS, ARE IMPORTANT FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF MAINTAINING TRADE BALANCE BETWEEN YUGOSLAVIA AND THE UNITED STATES. (THESE EXPORTS CANNOT BE CONSIDERED AS DETRIMENTAL TO THE UNITED STATES INDUSTRIES, THE MORE SO BECAUSE THEY CONSIST OF VARIOUS KINDS OF CHAIRS).

THE MAINTENANCE OF THIS ITEM IN THE UNITED STATES GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES IS VITAL FOR THE YUGOSLAV INDUSTRY OF FURNITURE AND CHAIRS AS A WHOLE, SINCE THE GREATEST PART OF THE CAPACITIES ARE CONSTRUCTED AND PRODUCTION SPECIALIZED FOR EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES, ACCORDING TO THE DEMAND AND REQUIREMENTS OF CONSUMERS. FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF CHAIRS YUGOSLAV BEECH TREES UNDERGOES SPECIAL TECHNOLOGICAL PROCESSES TO OBTAIN THE HIGHEST QUALITY OF WOOD. THE SUSPENSION OF PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT UNDER THE GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES WOULD HAVE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR A HARMONIOUS DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND YUGOSLAVIA.

THE FEDERAL SECRETARIAT FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS EXPRESSES THE HOPE THAT THE COMPETENT UNITED STATES AUTHORITIES, IN EXAMINING THIS MATTER, WILL ALSO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE INTENTIONS ENUNCIATED IN THE RESOLUTION 96 (IV) ADOPTED T THE NAIROBI CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT, UNCLASSIFIED

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INTENTIONS AIMED AT IMPROVING PRODUCTIVIA OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND AT INCREASING THEIR EXPORT EARNINGS.

THE FEDERAL SECRETARIAT FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AVAILS ITSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA THE ASSURANCES OF ITS HIGH CONSIDERATION. END QUOTE.

3. IN TELEPHONE CONVERSATION DECEMBER 10, OFFICIAL OF

YUGOSLAV FOREIGN TRADE SECRETARIAT EXPRESSED INTENTION
TO PROVIDE INFORMATION DECEMBER 13 IN RESPONSE TO TPSC REQUEST
REF A CONCERNING YUGOSLAV INTEREST IN "OTHER DRUGS", BRADS,
AND NAILS.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE CONVEY CONTENTS THIS MESSAGE
TO TRADE POLICY STAFF COMMITTEE.
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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